

Remarks

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 10-11 and 13-14, respectively, stating each pair of claims are duplicate claims each depending from the same claim, Claim 8. Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out this error. Applicant has cancelled Claims 10-11 and 13-14, thereby rendering these objections moot.

The Rejection of Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,650,703 to Schwarzmman, et al. ("Schwarzmman" or "the '703 patent"). Applicant has cancelled Claims 6 and 7 thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

The Rejections of Claims 8-11, 13 and 14 under § 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 8-11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as obvious over United States Patent No. 6,650,703 to Schwartzmann, et al. ("Schwartzmann" or "the Schwartzmann patent") in view of United States Patent No. 4,242,703 to Tsuboshima, et al. ("Tsuboshima" or "the Tsuboshima patent"). Applicant has cancelled Claims 8-11 and 13-14 thereby rendering the rejections of those claims moot.

New Claims

Applicant has added new Claims 15-18 depending either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1. The Examiner has allowed Claim 1. Because Claims 15-18 depend from Claim 1 and thus incorporate all the limitations of that claim, by law, Claims 15-18 are also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests passage to allowance of Claims 15-18.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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